

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A catalytic conversion process using a fluidized conversion zone, which requires a minimum superficial gas velocity to function properly, and a motor-driven, capacity-limited product compressor zone is started up using a thermal compressor by establishing two start-up gas recirculation circuits, one using the product compression zone running at high pressure to recirculate about 40 to 60 vol-% of the effluent gas stream from the conversion zone and the other running at low pressure and carrying the remaining portion of the effluent gas stream from the fluidized conversion zone where the high pressure circuit supplies motive gas to the thermal compression zone and the low pressure circuit supplies suction gas to the thermal compressor and the resulting compressed discharge gas enables the catalytic process to start up without the use of a dedicated motor-driven start-up compressor.